

Women of the Americas Organize an International Committee

BY LILY LYKES ROWE

Washington Bureau
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PAN-AMERICAN women representing the twenty-one republics of the Americas are completing organization as an International Committee of Women. The committee is an outgrowth of, and was organized by, the Women's Auxiliary Conference of the Pan-American Scientific Congress held in Washington three years ago. The new committee will be in full swing by next fall.

Among the leaders from the United States on the international committee are Mrs. Robert Lansing, wife of the Secretary of State; Mrs. Phillip North Moore, president of the National Council of Women, and Miss Julia Lathrop, chief of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor. Two other members

of the committee will be named from this country. Each of the republics in Pan-America will have five women on the international committee. It does not matter what the geographical area of the republic, its representation will equal that of the largest of the countries. The women invited to represent their countries on the committee are to be chosen carefully. It has been recognized that the delicate mechanism of international relationships is involved, and accordingly the organizing committee, of which Mrs. Lansing is chairman, proceeded slowly.

Feminists of Sorts From Latin America

When the formation of the international committee was authorized three years ago, during the Christmas season of 1915-1916, the purpose

was announced "to increase the knowledge of things American."

The movement which brought the committee into being goes back to the first Latin-American Scientific Congress, in 1898, at Buenos Ayres. Economists, scientists, publicists and educators met in conference under governmental auspices at intervals of about three years.

The first representatives of the government of the United States attended the fourth meeting of the Latin-American Scientific Congress in Chile. The name of the congress was changed at that time to the "Pan-American Scientific Congress."

A report of that initial gathering gives the names of several women physicians and educators of Latin America as members of the congress. The third congress distinguished Señora Barbosa Rodriguez, wife and collaborator of the director of the Botanical Gardens of Rio de Janeiro, by making her honorary president of its assembly. The Secretary General of the fourth Latin-American Scientific Congress declared that women composed 6 per cent of the total membership of that meeting. Professor Shepard, of Columbia University, an official delegate from America to the congress, said, in the Quarterly of his college, concerning the part women took in the meeting:

"Women school teachers constituted a large part of the audience at the meeting held for the discussion of educational matters. And it should be said that they express their opinions, as well as their differences in opinion from those held by educators of the other sex, with a degree of freedom and frankness quite surprising to any one who might fancy that no phase of the feminist movement had yet reached Latin America."

South American Women Eager for Comradeship

At the second Pan-American Scientific Congress it was proposed that a women's auxiliary conference be held. John Barrett, secretary general of the congress, invited a number of women of the United States who were identified with various public questions to make up the programme. The South American women attended in large numbers.

"There was an eagerness to give and receive, a desire to learn how the women of other countries dealt with problems common to all and

to understand the questions peculiar to the different countries and to form a deeper friendship which will



Mrs. Philip North Moore,
President, National Council of
Women and Member of Inter-
national Committee

draw the Americas into closer cooperation in the higher things of life." Such were the expressions of the purpose of the conference.

Mrs. Lansing presided at the ses-



Mrs. Robert Lansing,
Chairman of the Organizing Com-
mittee and member of the Inter-
national Committee of Women

dition to the chairman, Mrs. Lansing, the following women served on the committee: Miss Sarah Louise Arnold, Mrs. William H. Bixby, Miss Mabel T. Boardman, Mrs. A. S. Burleson, Mrs. P. P. Claxton, Mrs. William Gorgas, Mrs. Charles R. Crane, Mrs. Gilbert Grosvenor, Mrs. William H. Holmes, Mrs. Archibald Hopkins, Mrs. David F. Houston, Mrs. Charles Hutchinson, Mrs. Florence Kelley, Mrs. William Kent, Miss Julia Lathrop, Mrs. Gertrude S. Martin, Mrs. Louis F. Post, Mrs. Phillip North Moore, Mrs. Ernest Roberts, Mrs. George M. Rommel, Mrs. Martin Ryerson, Mrs. James

Brown Scott, Mrs. Charles D. Walcott, Miss Lillian D. Wald, Miss Elizabeth Wallace, Mrs. Francisco Yanes and Mrs. Glen L. Swiggett, executive secretary.

The Women's Auxiliary Gets to Work

Mrs. Lansing has sent the following letter to the women who are to be on the international committee: "This initial conference of the women of the Western Hemisphere, which held its sessions in the Memorial Hall of the D. A. R., was very successful, and there is every reason to hope that from this simple beginning there may develop along educational and philanthropic lines an organized and cooperative movement among the women of the American republics which, working as a strong international factor for economic and social betterment, may serve as a means for the expression of the culture of this hemisphere."

"Will you kindly favor me with suggestions as to the steps which, in your opinion, should be taken, looking toward a second conference of the women of the Americas, perhaps to be held at the time and place of the third Pan-American Scientific Congress, which is now scheduled for Lima in the year 1921."

The executive secretary of this organizing committee is Mrs. Glen Levin Swiggett, of Washington. She has had active charge of the organization of the Women's Auxiliary Committee. In speaking of the committee, both the auxiliary and the international committee, she said:

"It was inevitable that the women of the two Americas would wish to organize. The fact, too, that many more women in this country are studying Spanish to-day than ever before will do much to make this interest widespread throughout the United States. The women of Latin America themselves are worthy of just as much interest as the country."

Child Welfare One of the Subjects to Be Promoted

"The desire to have some immediate work to do after they were named on their country's section of the international committee led a number of South American women to request that they be assigned to duty. As a consequence we sent them questionnaires on child welfare work. The replies to these are now coming in. No doubt they will furnish very interesting data about

the progress of child welfare down there for the first number of our prospective quarterly. I have also sent information of what the women are doing in the United States to save their babies to the women with whom we have contact in South America."

"I might say that the wives of the ambassadors and ministers from South America, or the ranking women of their households, form an honorary committee to the international committee. These positions synchronize with the appointment of their husbands or fathers or brothers to the ambassadorial post. The women's auxiliary committee entertained the honorary committee and visiting Latin-American members of the international committee at a luncheon on May day in the Pan-American Building. Mrs. David F. Houston, acting chairman while

Mrs. Lansing is in Paris, presided. A cable message expressing regret at her inability to be present and commendation of the ideal behind the committee was read from Mrs. Lansing. A letter from Mrs. Louis F. Post, who was in Switzerland, was read, and a cable from Mrs. William Gorgas, who was in Ecuador. Mme. Baralt, member of the Cuban section, and Mme. Labarca, a member of the Chilean section, were among those speaking of the readiness of the Latin-American women to cooperate on lines of common interest.

"I am sure we all felt that the personal contact between the women of the Pan-American countries had been most inspiring and stimulating, all of us giving voice to the hope that there will be many occasions in the future for a similar exchange of thoughts and ideas."

Wanted—English Women Barristers

By MARGO HARTE

IN 1910 the writer came back from England on the boat with a Cambridge professor who has, since the war, become rather famous in this country as a lecturer and publicity agent. The writer believed that women should be doctors and lawyers and that they should have equal rights with men in a university life, and she said so.

"It is inconceivable," she told him, "that Cambridge and Oxford do not give degrees to women. I think the day is coming when both those universities will honor women in exactly the same measure as men."

"Never!" he exploded. "Not over my dead body!"

In the course of the voyage the writer mentioned, too, her theories as to woman's capability for law and medicine. The professor took violent issue.

"She isn't fit to be a lawyer!" he cried. "You'll never see a woman barrister in England!"

Much water has slipped under the bridge since then, and the Cambridge don, like many others of his ilk, has had his most sacred prejudices changed for him. While in America he is said to have spoken with signal admiration of the co-educational life and honors in our large universities. Say, if you will, that a tendency to unctuous flattery prompted him. The fact remains—he spoke. He said: "I am sorry to say that we have not yet progressed so far at Cambridge."

Whatever he now thinks of women lawyers is of no consequence, the matter is being settled without him, apparently. The British House of Lords has given a second reading to Lord Buckmaster's bill to qualify women as barristers and solicitors,

and the Lord Chancellor added to that reading an expression of unqualified approval of government policy toward it: "Under the attendant circumstances of to-day the government welcomes the proposal, and if the bill passes the Lords they (the government) will be willing to give assistance in the Commons that will render it highly probable that it will pass into law."

To us in America, where women lawyers are fairly usual and successful, the real significance may not penetrate at once. But law in the British Isles is, or seems to be, a more pretentious thing than it is here. Women solicitors or office consultants may not strike one as such an innovation, even in England, but the pomp and glory attendant on the barrister have always been Johnny Bull's peculiar prerogatives.

Yet, why should not the powdered wig and the cap and gown of the British court become a woman barrister mightily?

THE recent announcement that the House of Commons of England had opened the ranks of its official stenographers to women caused much interest among the older attaches of the United States Capitol. It was generally conceded that the taking of such a step by the United States House of Representatives is yet far distant. Reporters who have been at the Capitol for years declare that the strain of the work, particularly when there are all-night sessions, is too much for woman's physical powers. Again, a serious study, not only of the mechanics of the profession, but also of the procedure and routine of the Congress, is necessary to equip a person for the work.

The New Citizen On the Stage

By DEEMS VEILLER

LONDON (by mail) — "Frances," says my ma to me, "you're old enough to vote."

"Huh?" says I.

"Everybody's doing it," says ma, "by the Susan Anthony amendment, 56 to 25 in the Senate, 304 to 89 in the House."

"It's a majority," said ma; so I submit.

Now that I've got it, what am I going to do with it? says I to myself. Now, I don't mind telling you that I'm a Democrat. I've always been a Democrat. If my father ever heard me say Republican he'd pass out.

The next question is: What do I

consider my responsibility toward the state?

I don't consider. The minute I stop to consider I get out of step. I don't know what my duty is toward the state, but I know what it is toward the stage. It is to dance, and I do.

But now that all the women are going to get the vote, it makes me kinder wish I'd had more time to get a closer grip on the body politic.

Actresses ought to have something to say, come to think of it. There are 15,796 of them in the United States, including showgirls; at least there were till I went to England, and now there are 15,795 until I come back and make up our original quota. It seems to me that such a number of women ought to have something to say, even if they didn't say it. There is no reason, as far as I can see, why actresses should not be powerful in politics. In the first place, they haven't the first difficulty of the politician—to get before the public. The actress is there already. The dark horse from the stage has the spotlight playing on her now.

Look at the women who go into politics and talk from the street corners. An actress could do it better.

How about actresses in the light of successful professional women? There is the only profession where women are acknowledged in the lead. You can imagine medicine without women physicians, and law without women lawyers, but you can't imagine the stage without actresses to-day any more than you can imagine home without a mother. Actresses are our most highly

salaried women. The actress, as such, is a success. She has been a success for so long that everybody has stopped talking about it and turned to the success of the woman in business. But, take it from me, an actress works as hard and harder, with longer hours and a harder physical strain upon her than the

girl who sits at a desk all day and pats the keyboard of a typewriter.

When you said the word "party" to a girl from the stage it used to have one meaning. It meant a bottle and a bird and oysters, and it was after the show. But there's a new party that is going to make the actress sit up and take notice.

It's the women's party in politics. Make no mistake, the stage sisters are going to have their say.

From the little I've seen of English people there's one thing I know about them. They are loyal. Once a hit, always a hit, and either you're a hit or you're hit out. It's the reverse in politics on this island.

While English stars shine on forever, ministries may come and go.

It's a fine feeling to come on and know you're dancing to unswerving loyalty. Talking of hits, I think I've hit it. Loyalty is as good a thing off stage. Maybe that's what the future holds for women folks' politics.

The "Allied Citizens" Get Back of the Eighteenth Amendment

By ELENE FOSTER

The Anti-Saloon League Turns Its Attention to Law Enforcement in Town, City and State

IT MUST be the use of the word "Allied" in the title of this latest of all the community movements which has led to the widespread impression that the aim of the Allied Citizens of America is the Americanization of our foreign-born citizens. As a matter of fact, the association has nothing whatever to do with Americanization beyond what it hopes to do for every citizen of this country to help him to "uphold American ideals and the Constitution of the United States."

The Allied Citizens of America was incorporated less than two months ago by the Anti-Saloon League, with Miss Adella Potter as its official godmother and organizer. It chose April 13 as its birthday because it was on this day that George Washington took his first oath of office as President of the United States, and consequently the day on which the Constitution first went into effect.

The main object of the organization at the present time is to promote the enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment, not "primarily because it is for prohibition, but because it is for upholding the Constitution of the United States in its entirety." In order to accomplish this it purposes to organize in each town, village or city, and in each county and state, without regard to party, sex or creed, a body of citizens pledged to effective cooperative effort for the purpose of encourag-

ing and supporting honest, capable public officials, and making the local government efficient and responsive to enlightened public opinion.

Although organized in New York State, the Allied Citizens of America will eventually spread over the entire country, and without a doubt it will become a potent factor for good.

There is absolutely no red tape to bind the "joiner" of the Allied Citizens movement. He merely signs the covenant card, which reads as follows, and becomes a full-fledged member:

"Desiring to have part in promoting morality and patriotism and the civic welfare of my community, I hereby subscribe myself a member of the Allied Citizens of America and covenant with other members to uphold American ideals and the Constitution of the United States (particularly the Eighteenth Amendment thereto), and to cooperate in all proper efforts to maintain due respect for all laws, local, state and national."

There is no initiation fee and no dues—all that is asked of a member is that he live up to the covenant.

As I have said, the official organizer of the movement is a woman, Miss Adella Potter, who for the last year and a half has been the superintendent of the organization department of the Anti-Saloon League of New York. In this capacity she has done a tremendous amount of political and educational work in

laying the foundation for prohibition in this state. Previous to this she was an important member of the executive board of the New York State Woman Suffrage party.

The work of enrolling members for the new organization began some weeks ago through the distribution of the pledge cards in the churches, and the number of both men and women who have already joined is very encouraging.

It is Miss Potter's plan to appoint in each town or city a board of public spirited citizens, both men and women, who will act as the local directors of the Allied Citizens in that town, these directors to have full charge of the organization in their own community, with perfect freedom to carry out any plans which they may deem beneficial for the work in that community. Any expense incurred in the carrying out of these plans is to be met by voluntary subscription.

The Anti-Saloon League has implicit faith in the future of the Allied Citizens of America. Mr. William A. Anderson, the league's superintendent, thus voices the sentiments of that body in regard to its work:

"The Allied Citizens of America," says Mr. Anderson, "will be in existence long after the Association Opposed to National Prohibition and the dead issue which it seeks to revive are forgotten, and by reason of the non-sectarian, non-partisan character of the organization and due to the fact that no initiation fee is required and no financial obligation is involved it is sure to attain a tremendous growth, as it simply represents sentiment in favor of decency, justice and law enforcement."

"Can You Tell Me?"

DOZENS of times a day little Miss Tubbs, sitting at her desk in the office of the Anti-Saloon League, listens to these words coming over the telephone from all sorts and conditions of seekers after the truth,

and ninety-nine cases out of a hundred (and this is a conservative estimate) Miss Tubbs can tell the

answer to at least that percentage of the queries put to her, and that without a second's hesitation.



Adella Potter,
Official Organizer of the Allied Citizens

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Little Miss Tubbs! There's a quaint, old-fashioned story book sound to the name that is somehow reminiscent of the tales of Louisa M. Alcott, Mary E. Wilkins and Lucretia P. Hale, and yet "little Miss Tubbs" is a very real little person, every bit as quaint and interesting as her name. She is about as big as a minute, with a quizzical smile, a keen sense of humor and a simon-pure Boston accent. Moreover, she is a veritable mine of information on every subject under the shining sun that has even the most remote bearing on prohibition and the work of the Anti-Saloon League.

For the last year and a half Miss Tubbs has conducted the information department, which, be it understood, is a most important branch of the work of the Anti-Saloon League, and during that time she has not only acquired a most comprehensive knowledge of everything appertaining to alcoholic liquors, their manufacture, use, abuse and sale, but she has compiled a reference library of printed matter to which she can turn if there is ever any doubt in her mind regarding any phase of her subject.

To appreciate her omniscience you should hear some of the questions that come to her over that busy wire.

"Can you tell me the present whereabouts of William Jennings Bryan?"

"What action was taken on the liquor question by the Continental Congress?"

"How many breweries are there in Japan?"

"What are the dry towns in New York, Long Island, New Jersey and Connecticut within commuting distance of New York?"

"What great men have been total abstainers?"

"Can you tell me if my friend will be subject to a search and seizure law if I send some claret by him to my sick niece, who is in Florida?"

Have You a Question About Prohibition? Call Miss Tubbs, Gramercy Seven One Nine Two

"Who is the Governor of Maine?" "When was the sale of liquor prohibited at the capital?" "What effect will prohibition have on the printing trade?"

These are only a few of the questions which little Miss Tubbs is prepared to answer "right off the top of her mind."

The day that the newspapers heralded the tidings of the passing of the Eighteenth Amendment was one which little Miss Tubbs will have cause to remember for a long time to come. There was hardly a minute's respite all day long, and she remained at her post till her neck ached, her head swam, her ears rang and her voice became hoarse from constant use.

"What effect will prohibition have on the phonograph business?"

"Is it true that your league is going to take away our tobacco next?" (And right here let me say on good authority that the Anti-Saloon League has no idea of doing anything of the kind.)

"What has prohibition done for the drygoods business in the states that are already dry?"

"How many cities and towns in New York State are already dry?"

"Why hasn't New York City local option?"

"What is to become of the men employed in the breweries?"

These are samples of the questions which followed in the wake of the passing of the prohibition amendment, every one of which was answered clearly and truthfully by the little lady who sat from early morn till dewy eve with the telephone receiver to her ear.

And yet answering the telephone is but one part of her work. There

are innumerable letters to be answered and innumerable visitors to be received and sent on their way rejoicing in the light which has been given them on the subject of prohibition. These people come from all parts of the world. A member of the Australian Parliament, an ex-Governor of Yucatan, a government official from Japan, a member of the French Anti-Alcohol Society, a representative of "The London Times," a British army officer on his way home from New Zealand and a Senator from Guatemala are a few of the names culled from the office records.

One of Miss Tubbs's favorite occupations is compiling data for school and college debates, and this is where she can do a great deal in her quiet, efficient way for the cause for which the Anti-Saloon League is working.

The schoolboy from the lower East Side is regarded by little Miss Tubbs as a possible recruit for the prohibition army and is treated with as much deference as the Princeton students, who have recently invaded the department for material to be used in the Yale-Harvard-Princeton triangular debate.

"How do all these people know about the information department?" I asked.

"We are advertised by our loving friends," Miss Tubbs replied, "and," she added, with a twinkle in her eye, "by our vigilant enemies."

Little Miss Tubbs from Boston! When one realizes the amount of knowledge contained in that small head of hers the omniscient "Lady from Philadelphia" fades away into insignificance.